

# THE BAPTIST Record

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MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## Summer missionaries set record

By William H. Perkins  
Editor

Hundreds of people crowded into the Grand Hall of the B.C. Rogers Student Center at Mississippi College in Clinton on April 14 to be a part of the commissioning of a record number of Mississippi Baptist summer missionaries.

The 195 college students from Baptist Student Unions across Mississippi will serve in virtually every region of the U.S., as well as internationally. They will fan out from California to the Czech Republic during their summer break to serve in mission capacities selected in concert with the Missions Mobilization Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), as well as the International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"For more than 60 years, Mississippi Baptist Student Union (BSU) has been sending college students on mission around the world," said Weaver McCracken, director of collegiate ministry at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

"Now, more than ever, students are responding in record numbers. Through this summer, Mississippi BSU will have mobilized more than 3,400 students and given more than \$3.4 million to send them. Significantly, more than two million dollars have been given just in the past 15 years with more than 1,900 of these students serving.

"God is blessing, and Mississippi Baptist college students are responding," McCracken said.

The commissioning service was part of the weekend-long Leadership Training Conference (LTC) sponsored by the MBCB Collegiate Ministry Department.

"We registered one of our largest groups of students in years for this year's Leadership



the Grand Hall of Clinton for the April commissioning of summer missionaries from Mississippi Baptist Student Unions around the state is a new record. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Training Conference," McCracken said. "A priority of BSU is developing student leaders, and we largely do this by the student-led design of our local BSU programs. "During LTC, students are exposed to outstanding Biblical leaders who are able to challenge them to step out on their campus and beyond to both lead and minister."

New Orleans Seminary President Chuck Kelley was the keynote speaker for the weekend. His wife Rhonda also spoke at the conference.

"I thought Dr. Chuck did an outstanding job with explaining the biblical view of leadership," said Kris Walters, BSU associate director at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. "I really like this approach at LTC. I think students are looking for biblical examples of leadership and for those to be explained in a relevant way."

Jim Futral, MBCB executive director-treasurer, delivered the commissioning message from John 20:21. He described how Jesus was preparing to send out the disciples as "His missionaries."

"There are three words I want to leave with you: 'Serve Jesus well,'" Futral said.

At Futral's behest, towels emblazoned with the MBCB logo were handed out to each summer missionary, to remind them that Christians are called to servanthood just as Jesus served His disciples by washing their feet. He encouraged the students to use a marker to keep a journal of their summer service on the back of the towel.

"On the way to serve Jesus, serve Jesus on the way," Futral reminded the students.

"I see the opportunity to serve (as a summer missionary) as a blessing. I am just truly thankful for the chance to go and spread the Gospel to people groups who've never heard the name of Jesus," said Deanna Basden of Birmingham, Al., a junior at Mississippi State University in Starkville. She will be serving in Peru.

"I truly believe that having a part in missions is not just the call of one or two believers, but that it is the call on all of our lives to step outside of what we are comfortable with, whether it be through monetary support, prayer support, or actually going to the streets where we live, and all over the world," she said.

"There are needs to be met and people to be shown the truth and freedom in Christ all over the world. It is the Lord who placed the desire in my heart to serve this summer in California and to show a love that is a reflection of the love I have received," said Anna Bishop of Brookhaven, a freshman at Mississippi College.

"This group of young people has been a joy to work with," said Christy Carley, MBCB associate director of collegiate ministries. "I'm awed by the places God is allowing them to serve Him this summer."

The Mississippi State University BSU is sending the most summer missionaries this year (31), followed by the University of Southern Mississippi (28), Mississippi College (21), the University of Mississippi in Oxford (19), and Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain (14).

Mississippi Baptists sent their first summer missionary to Hawaii in 1947, jointly funded with Louisiana Baptists. Since then, Mississippi Baptists on several occasions have led the entire Southern Baptist Convention in number of summer missionaries commissioned.

The summer missions program is supported by funds raised by Mississippi BSUs and the summer missionaries themselves, and gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

For more information on the summer missions program, contact Carley at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3301 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 301. E-mail: ccarley@mbcb.org.

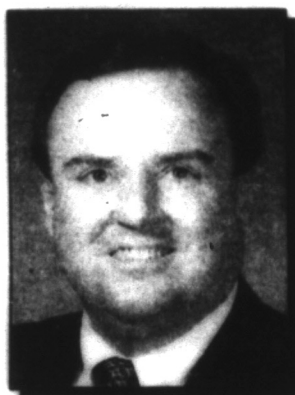


TAKING UP THE TOWEL — Christy Carley (left), associate director of the Collegiate Ministry Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, hands out towels emblazoned with the Mississippi Baptist logo to summer missionaries commissioned April 14 in the Grand Hall of the B.C. Rogers Student Center on the campus of Mississippi College in Clinton. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)





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# A most special privilege

**A**pril 15, Tax Day. With apologies to President Roosevelt, another day which will live in infamy.

So dreaded is the prospect of Tax Day that vast numbers of us resort to waiting until the final hours of the final day are draining away before we put pencil to paper and begin the arduous process of rendering unto Caesar.

News media love to cover the midnight filers with comical stories of procrastinating as long as possible before settling up with Uncle Sam. It's an annual news media ritual.

It's interesting that people are so flippant (or resigned, as the case may be) to handing over so much of their hard-earned treasure to the various governments that extract taxes from us each year.

Maybe those people wouldn't be so casual about it if they understood more clearly the confiscatory level of taxes they pay each year are made even higher due to some special tax breaks granted to the most politically-connected group in the country.

Yes, thanks to our elected lawmakers on both the state and national levels, while you're paying your full load of state and national income taxes, gamblers get to write off their losses in much the same profit/loss manner as business owners and the self-employed.

On line 7(b) of Schedule A of the 2006 Mississippi tax return, is a deduction for "gambling losses." Not to be outdone, the U.S. Congress also permits gamblers to count their losses against federal income taxes paid.

Movie goers cannot write off the amount of their tickets to theaters. Golfers cannot write off their expenses for a personal round of golf. Gamblers, however, can write off their losses for what gambling proponents describe as pure entertainment.

This is yet another indication of the

power of the gambling/political complex at both the state and national levels. We already know about the power they wield in Mississippi. When the gamblers wanted to move onshore contrary to state law, they simply dialed up Governor Haley Barbour and enough influential legislators to get what they wanted in a special session of the Legislature. When a local government plans for the future or attempts to recruit new businesses to the area, the first question that must always be asked is, "How will this affect the casinos?"

The last thing most politicians want is to incur the wrath of the gambling industry. For the craven politician more intent on planning his own reelection than looking out for the people, it can be the kiss of death.

The same goes for the news media, so proud of their "objectivity" and lack of bias. The advertising money from gambling interests is just too good to risk offending the industry. That's the real reason why so many news media outlets in Mississippi actively promote gambling causes and castigate Mississippi Baptists for opposing them.

Now individuals can write off their gambling losses, which can be interpreted as nothing less than an enticement to gamble even more — and why not? The government take from gambling revenues is astronomical. Governments have every reason

**2006 1040**  
Forms and Instructions



Note: satirical reproduction

to promote gambling by any means possible. Even more to the point, politicians that run the governments have every reason to promote gambling by any means possible.

In effect, the State of Mississippi (that's you and me) — the poorest state in the nation with some of the highest tax burdens — condones a special tax dodge for a gambler's entertainment. All the while, one of the most addictive behaviors known to man continues to flourish in our state and our nation, with the stamp of approval of our tax codes.

It's enough to make you sick, isn't it?

## Nominees sought for MBC posts

Members of the Committee on Nominations for the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) will soon begin meeting and reviewing the trustee/board member positions on the boards and commissions of the Mississippi Baptist Convention for 2008.

According to Matt Buckles, committee chairman and pastor of First Church, Vicksburg, there are a limited number of vacancies to be filled on the following boards and commissions:

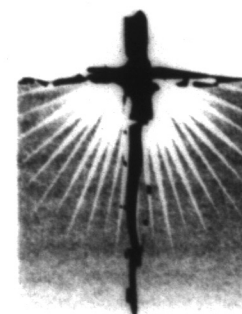
- Board of Ministerial Education
- Christian Action Commission
- Education Commission
- Historical Commission
- Mississippi Baptist Children's Village
- Mississippi Baptist Foundation
- Baptist Health Systems, Inc., Jackson
- Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc., Memphis
- Blue Mountain College
- Mississippi College
- William Carey College
- Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

The Nominating Committee will work in conjunction with the heads of the institutions and agencies in bringing a list of nominees to be approved by the messengers at the 172nd

annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention on October 30-31.

Nomination forms can be obtained by contacting the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Executive Administration, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3201 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 201. E-mail: bbox@mbcb.org.

Completed forms should be mailed to the Committee on Nominations, Executive Administration, at the above address to be received by May 1.



## Softball tournament scheduled

JACKSON, Ms. (Special) -- The 2007 Mississippi Baptist State Softball Tournament will be held July 20-August 4 at the VA/Legion fields in Jackson. Churches that are cooperating members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention are qualified for the tournament.

The Class A men's tournament will be held on July 20-21, along with Classes A through AAA of the women's tournament. The Class AA men's tournament will be held July 27-28. The Class AAA men's tournament will be held August 3-4.

Cost is \$150 per team, and entry deadline is July 1. For more information, contact Rodney Bounds at P.O. Box 396, Clinton, MS 39060-0396. Telephone: (601) 362-8676. Fax: (601) 362-8691. E-mail: metrobound@aol.com.



# First person: A journey to Satanism and back

**EDITORS' NOTE:** This is a first-person account by Gwan Garrison, pastor of Franklin Church in Bettstown, Ga., as told to Joe Westbury, managing editor of *The Christian Index*, newsjournal of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

BETTSTOWN, Ga. (BP) -- In 1994, power and money were my gods. Good, bad, or indifferent, that's the way it was. I had given the devil my heart and would do whatever I felt he wanted me to do to get what I wanted out of life.

I was living the good life in California with my wife Judy and two daughters but was searching for purpose and meaning. That's when I met a practicing witch, who was one of the office supervisors where I worked as the department head. She served under me and we quickly struck up a professional relationship.

The witch and I were on the same material wavelength and she taught me how to cast spells, how to discern the future, how to influence people and have power over them. I was moving up the ranks and wanted that to continue as long as possible, so (the witch's abilities) really appealed to me. That's how I became involved in Satanic worship.

No one, especially my family and my Christian wife, had any idea of my gradual involvement with the darker side of life. As I acquired Satanic paraphernalia - a bible, literature, candles, books on how to cast spells - I kept them all safely hidden and would practice my belief away from the eyes of others. I knew they would not understand and I didn't want to explain.

The witch and I worked in tandem in the office environment and I thoroughly began to enjoy persecuting Christians. I just detested them for some reason, especially as the Easter season rolled around and they asked to take Good Friday as a vacation day.

That really irritated me and I would always come up with a good excuse to deny the request. "Sorry, we are overworked and understaffed" always seemed appropriate and justifiable, or I would say that others with more seniority had already requested the day.

Anyway, they didn't get the day off to go to church and that gave me a considerable amount of satisfaction and fulfillment.

One of our employees, Susan Conway, was especially bothersome.

Susan had witnessed to me on several occasions and I did everything I could to terminate her. I would accept additional administrative responsibilities to bring her closer under my authority but it never worked out. She would be transferred to another unit or something would happen.



Garrison

I could never touch her and it aggravated me to no end, but in her own gracious manner, she never compromised her witness.

There was such a hedge of protection around her that I could never penetrate, and it really bothered me. I loved persecuting Christians and she was one trophy that I wanted on my wall.

Then one day in 1994 my daughter Cammie accepted Christ following her enrollment in a Christian school - an enrollment that occurred over my objections. I didn't care for that at all and thought it was just a passing teenage phase and wouldn't last. I didn't do anything to encourage her and tried to downplay its significance. Looking back on it, I don't know how I could have been so insensitive.

When Good Friday rolled around I received the usual requests for vacation days from Christians and turned them down with the usual amount of satisfaction, but that year something different came into play.

I walked into my office and there on the corner of my desk was a free ticket to a drama called *The Greatest Story Ever Told*. I didn't know that it was a passion play and I didn't have anything better to do so I thought I would go see it. My marriage was in jeopardy and my wife and two daughters had moved to be near her parents, who were in failing health, in Bainbridge, Ga.

I had decided we were at a crossroads and I would divorce my wife because money and my lucrative job was more important than my family.

As I pulled up at the address on the ticket I was surprised to see that I was in the parking lot of a large church. My first reaction was a half-smile and to acknowledge to whomever left the ticket on my desk, "OK, you got me," but I was still confused, thinking that perhaps the drama team had simply rented the facility for the evening and I dismissed any religious connection.

I had been raised in a family where we said grace before our

meals but that was pretty much as close as we ever got to God. In fact, my father once decked a pastor because he didn't like something he said. On this night I didn't have anything better to do so I thought I'd go inside and see the play.

To my surprise, the drama was riveting as the story of the betrayal of Christ unfolded in front of me. As the drama continued, I became especially interested in the scene of the Last Supper. "I wonder where he's going," I thought to myself.

Then the set changed to the Garden of Gethsemane and the doors swung open and two guys dressed like Roman soldiers walked up to the stage and got into a heated discussion with the disciples. In one fast swing, Peter cut off the ear of one of the soldiers.

Blood spurted everywhere and I thought, "Wow, that's really life-like." I was thoroughly hooked on the story.

Then, to my amazement, Jesus put the ear back on the soldier and the blood disappeared. The next thing I knew, they were dragging Him right by me, through the swinging doors and into the foyer.

The doors closed and I heard the whips hitting His back. Then something strange began to happen: Every time the whip struck Him I began having a very sharp pain in my chest

that began moving down my arm. I felt like I was having the symptoms of a heart attack.

Once again the doors swung open and Jesus was standing there wearing a crown of thorns. He took three steps and fell in the aisle right in front of my pew and looked up into my eyes, with blood dripping down his forehead, and said, "I did this for you."

Goose bumps ran down my spine. I didn't know how to respond. He was speaking directly to me like He had known me forever.

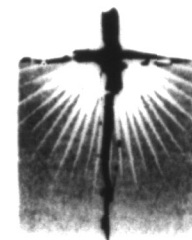
Once Jesus got to the stage, which was set as Calvary, He began crying out with each nail that was driven into his flesh. And each time the hammer hit the nail the pain in my own chest returned. I knew I was having a heart attack and morbidly thought to myself, "Well, at least I'll die in church."

"Father, forgive them ..." Then they raised the cross with Christ attached, dropped it into a hole on the stage and a tremendous clap of thunder roared over the speaker system. I heard Him say something remarkable: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

The house lights went down and the sanctuary was totally black. As the lights come up, the cross was empty. I was used to casting spells on others, but at this instance I was spell-bound by the gospel story.

The pastor, standing under one dim light at the front of the sanctuary, said, "If you are hurting in your heart tonight, I want to pray for you. Please raise your hand." With pain running from my heart down my arm I didn't wait a moment. I shot my hand up, seriously thinking to myself, "If you want to do something, call 911."

I don't remember how I got to the altar when the invitation was given, I just remember kneeling with the pastor. As I prayed the sinner's prayer, the pain immediately left. It was 7:55 p.m. on April 1, 1994.



MISSISSIPPI  
**BAPTISTS**

**THE SECOND  
FRONT PAGE**

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## Looking back

### 10 years ago

Robert E. Reccord tells the Norfolk, Va., congregation he leads that he will accept the presidency of the North American Mission Board if elected by the agency's trustees June 19 in Dallas.

### 20 years ago

Four ministers from different states who claim no affiliation with either faction of the controversy within the Southern Baptist Convention mail "A Pastoral Plea for Peace Among Southern Baptists," subtitled "No Lord but Christ, No Creed but the Bible" to churches across the convention.

### 50 years ago

Dedicatory services for two new brick motel units at Kittiwake Assembly will be held Apr. 30. One new unit is completely air conditioned and has private baths.





**YOU CAN RESPOND  
RIGHT NOW!**

*Simply share the following prayer  
with God in your own words:*

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.  
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my  
sins and freedom from eternal  
death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose  
from the grave to forgive my  
sins and to restore my rela-  
tionship with you.  
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus  
Christ into my life. From this  
time on, I want to live in a lov-  
ing relationship with Him. (I  
receive Christ as my Savior  
and Lord.)

*"But as many as received him,  
to them he gave the right to become  
children of God, even to those who  
believe in his name." (John 1:12)*

*If you make a decision for  
Jesus Christ today, contact a  
local Baptist church for spiritu-  
al guidance.*

## STAFF CHANGES

**West  
Marks  
Church,**  
Marks, has  
called John  
Shackleford  
as pastor.  
His first ser-  
mon was  
Apr. 1.



**Shackleford**

## BRIDGING THE GENERATION GAP

For as long as I can remem-  
ber, folks have talked about a  
"generation gap." One of the  
interesting things about the gap  
is that every generation thinks  
that it just came about during  
their generation. I think not, for  
it seems that it will always be  
with us as people move along in  
the growing, aging, and matur-  
ing process. The basic princi-  
ples of life, even the solid founda-  
tion of theological truth may  
not change at all, but the way  
we see things, hear things, and  
are able to get to or from things  
may change ever so gradually  
from one year to the next.

The other day the generation  
gap struck home in our family.  
Two of the grandkids were with  
one of the mothers/aunts. One  
boy is three and the other is two,  
and they were riding in the  
backseat of the vehicle in their  
car seats. A song came on the  
radio and the two-year old said,  
"Mama, turn that up! That's a  
great song." She revved up the  
music so that he could enjoy it.  
The three-year old said, "Turn  
that down! I can't even hear my  
ears." The controversy began  
over music, how loud it should  
be, and what is personally  
enjoyed. I doubt that either of  
them will remember the conver-  
sation but no doubt, as the years  
pass on they will have other  
conversations related to the  
same subject. The problem that  
they were dealing with in part is  
the problem that we struggle  
with all along the way in life. We  
do not recognize the differences  
that invariably come in our lives  
that create different opinions,  
feelings, and appreciations.



## Directions

**Jim Futral**, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

They did not know or at least  
they did not acknowledge the  
stage of life in which they found  
themselves. Just think about it.  
There is a huge difference  
between a two-year old and a  
three-year old. In fact, there is a  
difference of one-third of a life  
span. That is easy to see in a  
couple of little kids with virtu-  
ally no differences in their lives  
but the vast difference in age. It  
certainly makes a difference in  
what they hear, how they  
process information, and in  
what they like. It is not a matter  
of right or wrong and good or  
bad, so much as it is just the  
stage where you are in life. The  
more years that pass by and the  
more influences and experi-  
ences that come into your life  
the more complicated the stages  
become. People do not recog-  
nize the needs, the interests,  
and the desires that exist at the  
various stages unless they  
understand or care about the  
needs of those around them.

Everywhere you go you can  
see folks dealing with the vari-  
ous stages of life. Some time  
ago we were on vacation down  
on the coast. One night we  
went to a restaurant and as we  
walked in the door there was a  
big sign that said, "If the music  
is too loud, you are too old."

We stayed and the food was  
good, but I was too old.

Another thing that some-  
times is left out of the evalua-  
tion process is the page. Most  
everybody is somewhat on a  
different page from other  
folks. What I am referring to is  
simply the personal prefer-  
ences that folks may have. It is  
amazing that we human  
beings can be wired up so  
individually and uniquely dif-  
ferent. We not only like differ-  
ent things, but we passionately  
like different things. The  
best I can remember when I  
was a kid is when we had a  
choice of chocolate ice cream  
or vanilla ice cream. All of  
these new-fangled conco-  
ctions were yet to be invented.  
I loved chocolate and won-  
dered what was wrong with  
folks who would pass by  
chocolate and choose vanilla.  
Now I prefer vanilla over  
almost any other ice cream.  
We do tend to get on different  
pages as we move along, but  
personal preferences are just  
who and what we are. Just  
look at the colors that people  
paint their homes or the com-  
bination of colors that people  
wear. Just count the different  
colors of cars that you see in a  
mile. The manufacturing

genius, Henry Ford, once said  
of the Model T, "You can buy  
it in any color, as long as it is  
black." Obviously, folks  
decided they wanted other  
colors because not everybody  
has to live or drive on the  
same page.

One other thing that needs  
to be kept in mind is the impor-  
tance of the rage. Rage does not  
need to be a part of the issue as  
we deal with our different  
approaches or our different  
faiths. There have been times  
when I have actually talked  
with folks in our churches that  
were so angry and upset  
because the music was too  
loud, the songs were too differ-  
ent, and they wanted to express  
their rage. The truth is that God  
is not so much looking for deci-  
bel ratings or checking to see  
the date of authorship on any  
song of praise to Him, but He is  
looking at our hearts. Sadly, our  
attitudes may do far more to  
damage the Kingdom of God  
than the setting of a new song  
ever would.

To my two grandsons I say,  
"Boys, calm down. Just because  
the song does not suit your  
fancy or it is turned up too loud  
or down too low, it is far better  
for you to be good cousins and  
great friends than for you to  
allow some noise around you to  
become a racket between you  
and cause both of you to end up  
with a sour disposition." By  
God's grace, with His help, and  
with effort on each of our parts,  
we can bridge the generation  
gaps that exist among us.

*The author may be contacted at  
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-  
0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.*

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## LOVING WELL RETREAT WITH BETH MOORE MAY 4-5

Join us for a fun-filled weekend as we learn how to love well. Through video we  
will hear best-selling author and teacher Beth Moore, enjoy fun and fellowship with  
other women, laugh, shed a few tears, eat, make new friends, and enjoy old friends.  
It's a weekend you don't want to miss!

Hosted by McLaurin Heights Baptist Church, 404 Pemberton Drive, Pearl, MS  
39208. Registration: \$15 per person, may submit online at [www.mhbcpearl.org](http://www.mhbcpearl.org) or  
call the church office at (601) 939-3379.

Registration deadline is April 20. No childcare provided.



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**Depart September 15, 2007: travel with other Southern Baptists  
and your Baptist Chaplain, Rev. Bernie Parker**

## "Autumn Leaves" Tour Visits Historical East

**15 Days from \$1148\***

Depart September 15, 2007, with other Baptists and combine a New  
England & East Coast historical tour with fall foliage. Start in Philadelphia;  
travel on your comfortable motor-coach through the mountains, offering  
spectacular and colorful vistas. There's included sight-seeing in Philadelphia  
(Independence Hall & the Liberty Bell); New York City; Milford, and New  
Haven. You'll visit gorgeous mansions of Newport, RI; tour Boston including  
the Old North Church, The Boston Common, Bunker Hill and USS  
Constitution. There's even one free day in Boston with an optional tour to  
historic Concord, Lexington, Gloucester, and "bewitching" Salem. Next,  
travel through the White and Green Mountains to French Canada: Quebec  
and Montreal, both with city tours, and travel along the St. Lawrence in  
"upper NY" to Niagara Falls. YMT will also take you to Gettysburg, Amish  
Country, Valley Forge, Hershey World and other attractions before flying  
home. This will be Reverend Parker's second trip as a Your Man Tours  
Baptist Clergy host. He has led over 50 travel groups over the years and  
has recently retired after 29 years as Minister of Music at the First Baptist  
Church in Columbia, Mississippi. \*Prices, per person, double occpy. start at  
only \$1148 including all taxes. Add \$600 r/t airfare from Memphis, TN;  
Birmingham, AL or Gulfport/Biloxi, MS. Add \$700 r/t airfare from Jackson,  
MS. Space is limited to 46 on our Baptist motor-coach. \$300 deposits are  
now due.

For information, reservations and brochure call 7 days a week:

**'YOUR MAN' TOURS 1-800-968-7626**

*America's First Choice for travel since 1967!*



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 19, 2007

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

## "Celebrate the Call in Every Season of a Woman's Life"

North East Mississippi Women's Celebration  
Saturday, May 19

9:30 registration, Celebration 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Calvary Baptist Church, Belmont



Leathers

featuring:

Acteen **Emily Leathers**  
"Top Teen," Pickens - Spring



Rayford

Janet Rayford, Jackson - Summer

**Patrice Turner**

Baltimore, Md. - Autumn



Turner

**Shirley Berry**, Water Valley,  
former Mrs. Mississippi - Winter



Berry

**Cindy Arnold** - Worship and Praise Leader

A woman in all of her seasons searches for meaning in her life. She searches for and discovers that life has a spiritual dimension as well as temporal. She also discovers a Comforter in her grieving, an ally and partner in her dreaming, an accurate mirror in measuring her self worth, and an encourager in her giving.

Tishomingo Association will be hosting lunch and a love offering will be taken to cover the cost. Registration begins at 9:30; Celebration starts at 10 a.m.; Lunch is at noon; 2 p.m. Adjourn.

Call the MS wMu for more info:  
601-292-3324, 1-800-748-1651 or  
E-mail Kburns@mbcb.org.

Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Camp Garaywa, Clinton, MS

**Student Leader**  
**Missions Summit**

This unique missions event is designed especially for **BSU Directors, Collegiate Ministers, Youth Ministers** or those who **work with high school or college students.**

### SPECIAL GUESTS:

**Eric Perkins**

IMB Regional Volunteer Strategist, South America

**Preparing Students to be  
Strategically Involved in Missions**

**Kim Davis**

Author of MY LIFE, HIS MISSION

**Spiritual Preparation for International Missions**

**Joe S.**

IMB Student Impact Facilitator, Middle East

**Equipping Your Students for Encountering  
Muslim Student Missionaries in the US**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: APRIL 23**

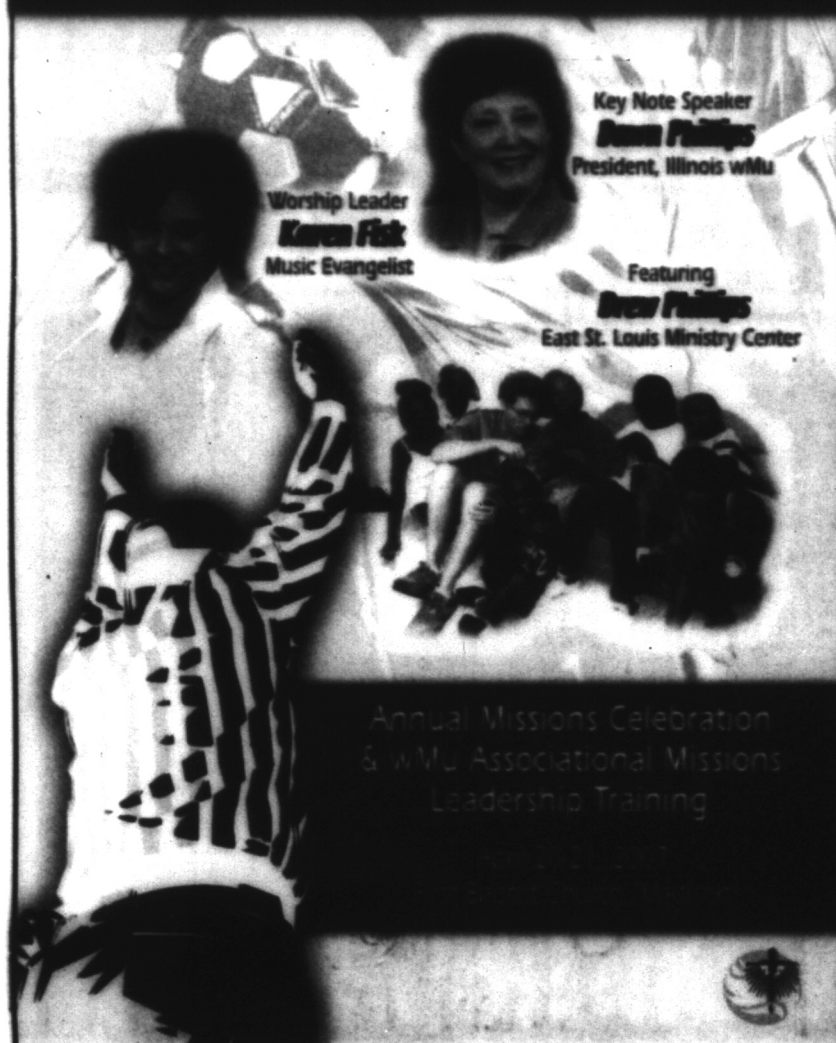
For more info, contact:

Karen Moore, Missions Mobilization, MBCB  
601-292-3235 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 235  
E-mail kmoore@mbcb.org



## "It's Your Call!"

Registration and Child Care are under full warranty.  
 Please contact your pastor for more information.



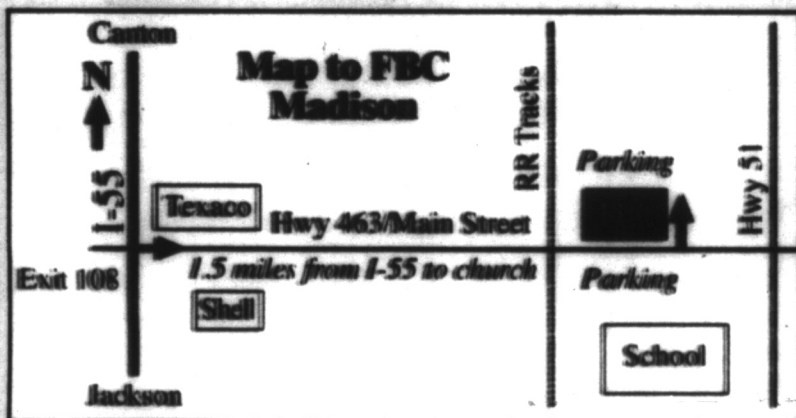
Annual Missions Celebration  
 & WMLU Associational Missions  
 Leadership Training

### FRIDAY, April 20

1:30 - 2:00 p.m.	General Assembly
2:15 - 3:15	Conferences
3:30 - 4:30	Conferences
4:30	Break (dinner on your own)
6:15 - 7:45	Conferences
8:00	Worship

### SATURDAY, April 21

9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	Conferences
10:15 - 11:15	Conferences
11:30 - 12:45	Worship
12:45 p.m.	(Adjourn)



For more info, contact Mississippi WMLU at  
 601-292-3319 or spruitt@mbcb.org.  
 Go to www.mbcb. Click on: Departments, Mission  
 Strategy, Woman's Missionary Union.

## Small Church/ Bivocational Church Pastor's Workshop



Temple BC, Hattiesburg  
 June 25, 2-9 p.m.

Emmanuel BC, Grenada  
 June 26, 2-9 p.m.

Led by Paul Power

Sponsored by Pastors Leadership  
 Development Department  
 Contact Kay McDonnell  
 601-292-3319 or 1-800-748-1651  
 or kmcdonnell@mbcb.org  
 for further details.

## OLDER CHILDREN'S Bible Drill Camp 2007

July 5-7

Central Hills Baptist Retreat

**For all Boys and  
 Girls in your church  
 who have completed  
 Grades 3-6**

**Cost \$95** with \$50 deposit due  
 with preregistration

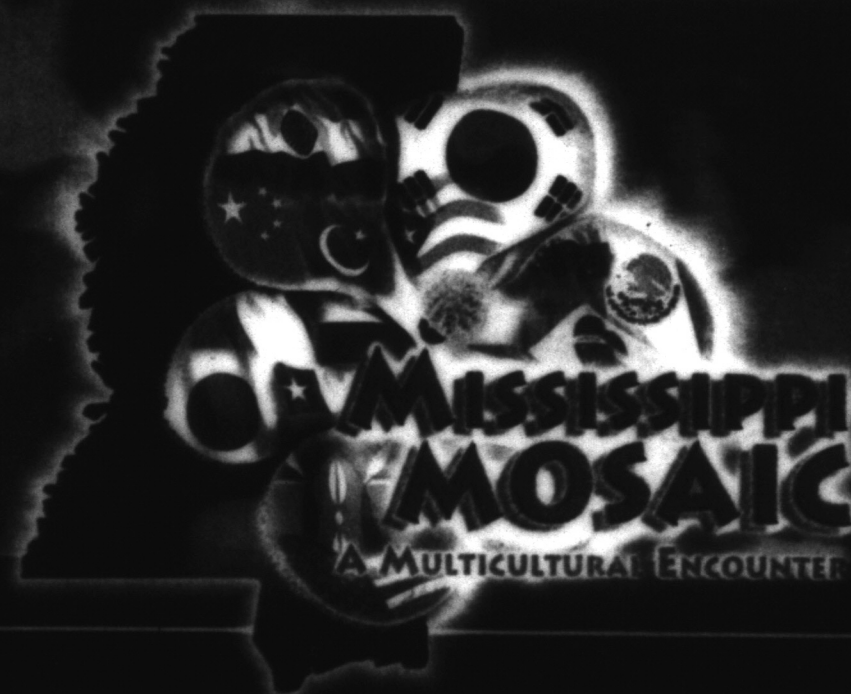
### Camp activities include:

Bible Study, Bible Memorization,  
 Bible Skill, Worship, Camp Fire  
 Service, Morning Watch,  
 Time with Southern Baptist  
 Missionaries, Horseback Riding,  
 Rifle Range [safety/marksman-  
 ship], Swimming, Canoeing,  
 and 4 square.

Each church group must have a  
 male counselor for every 7 boys  
 (or portion thereof) and a  
 female counselor for every 7  
 girls (or portion thereof).  
 Children are together with the  
 counselors from their church all  
 during camp.

Camp begins with check-in at 2  
 p.m., Thursday, July 5, 2007,  
 and ends at noon on Saturday,  
 July 7.

Program questions  
 should be directed to  
 the Discipleship  
 and Family Ministry  
 Department,  
 1-800-748-1651  
 or  
 dbrashier@mbcb.org.

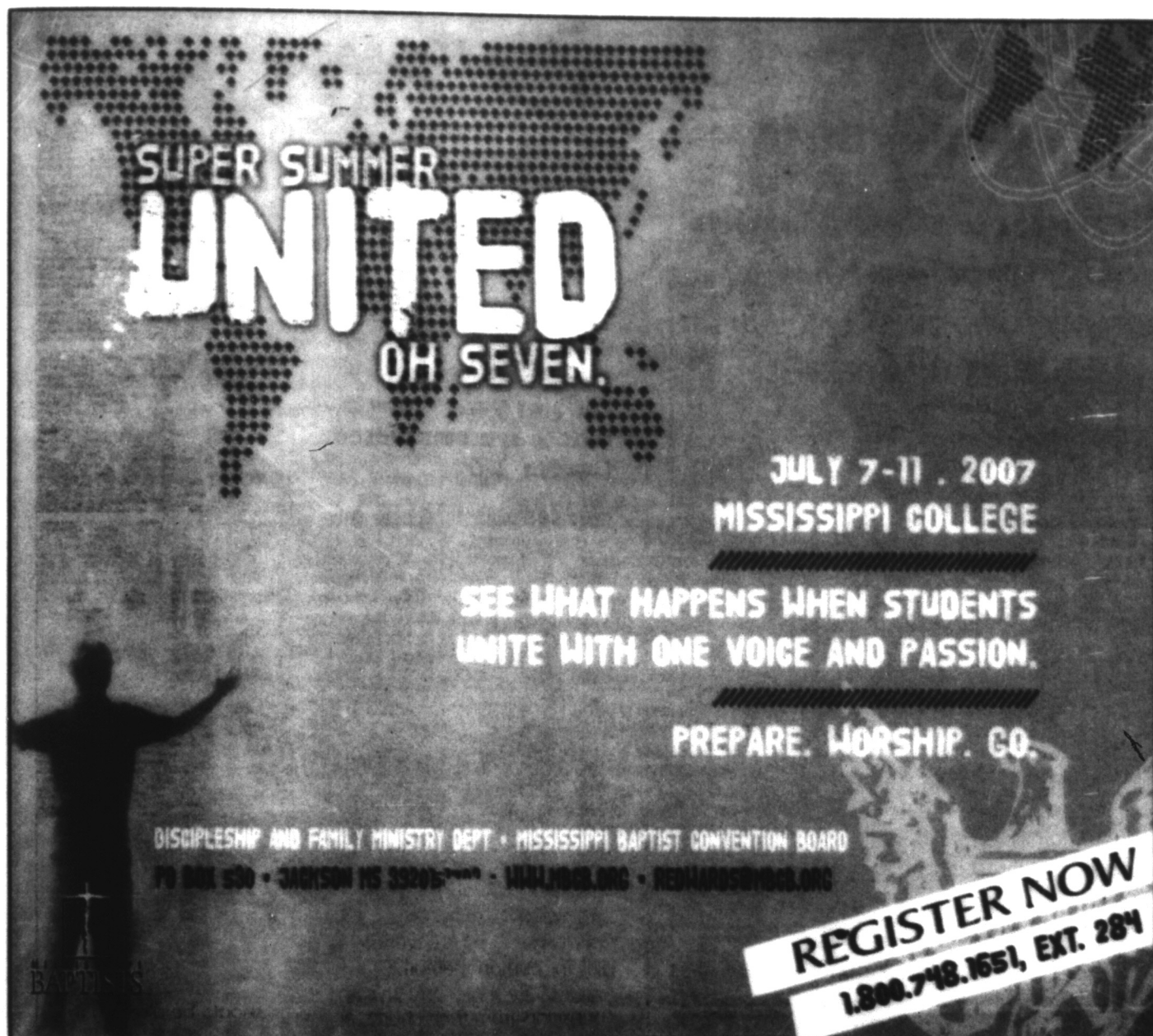


A State Workers' Summit  
 for People Involved in Ethnic Ministries  
 and Those Wanting to Get Started

CAMP GARAYWA, AUGUST 3-4, 2007

For more information, contact WMLU at  
 601-292-3319 or 1-800-748-1651





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**REGISTER NOW**  
1.800.748.1651, EXT. 284

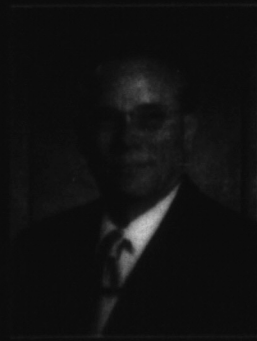
**2007  
PREACHING  
CONFERENCE**



**MONDAY, APRIL 23**  
WILLIAM CARBY  
UNIVERSITY  
HATTIESBURG

**TUESDAY, APRIL 24**  
EMMANUEL BC  
GRENADA

**FEATURED  
PRESENTER**



**O.S. Hawkins**  
*President  
GuideStone  
Financial  
Resources*

Please register by April 20, 2007, so that we might prepare materials. For more registration and information, call Pastor Leadership Development Department (601) 938-3800 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 335.

## Interim Pastor Training



Golden Triangle Baptist Association Office

**Columbus  
May 1**

9 a.m. - noon



Thirty-Eighth Avenue BC

**Hattiesburg  
November 13**

9 a.m. - noon



LED BY:

**Alan Woodward**  
Director

MBCB Pastor/Leadership Development  
Department

**Frank Harmon**  
Director

MBCB Church-Minister Relations  
Department

For more information, contact  
Pam May, Church-Minister Relations Department  
601-292-3225, 1-800-748-1651,  
or E-mail [pmay@mbcb.org](mailto:pmay@mbcb.org)



## Pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

## April 20 - May 3, 2007

*"Oh! who shall measure the heights of the Savior's all-sufficiency? First, tell how high is sin, and then, remember that as Noah's flood prevailed over the tops of earth's mountains, so the flood of Christ's redemption prevails over the tops of the mountains of our sins."*

(1) Life Commitment Sunday (P/LD Emphasis); (2) The Aukan Team erected a radio tower four years ago in the Jungle of Suriname to bring the gospel to the Aukan people. Bible stories are being played on the radio but no Christians are working there. Please pray that the Lord will call Christians to work there who will witness to the people listening.

Thank God for the many ways that Christ was shared in China during the Christmas season. Pray for enabling and wisdom for those who are training new believers who received Christ as a result of Christmas evangelism. Pray that the new Christians will grow into maturity and will be faithful in leading others to Christ.

(1) Preaching & Worship Conference, FBC, Laurel, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (P/LD); (2) VBS Church Leadership Training, FBC, Louisville, 6:30 - 9 p.m. (SS); (3) VBS Church Leadership Training, FBC, Purvis, North Oxford BC, Oxford, 6:30 - 9 p.m. (SS); (4) VBS Church Leadership Training, FBC, Natchez, 6:30 - 9 p.m. (SS)

(1) VBS Church Leadership Training, FBC, Meridian (SS); (2) International Missions Emphasis, FBC, Starkville (MMOB); (3) Rex Rains, pastor for a new church plant, New Life Church, Dubuque, Iowa, praises God for His many blessings. Pray for the new wave of leadership, financial support from partnership churches and a building for worship.

(1) VBS Church Leadership Training, FBC, Yazoo City, 6:30 - 9 p.m. (SS); (2) VBS Church Leadership Training, FBC, Tupelo, 6:30 - 9 p.m. (SS); (3) VBS Church Leadership Training, FBC, Purvis, 6:30 - 9 p.m. (SS); (4) Preaching & Worship Conference, Emmanuel BC, Grenada, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (P/LD).

(1) Baptist Association in USA "300th Year" Emphasis (SBC Emphasis); (2) Interim Pastor Training, Golden Triangle Baptist Association, Columbus (P/LD & CMR); (3) Senior Adult Choir Festival, Country Woods BC, Byram, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (CM); (4) International Missions Emphasis, FBC, Richland, 10 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. (MMOB).

"Remember that friend or family member whom you thought would never step foot in a church?" asks Team Teguis in Queretaro, Mexico. "We have one in San Juan del Rio. The last two weeks he has arrived early, read Scriptures when it was his turn and allowed his daughters to help him learn the songs. Pray that he will open his heart to Christ."

Ken Belflower, Scottsdale, Ariz., is church planting facilitator for the Arizona Convention. Pray for churches to respond by planting churches in Arizona since the population has increased over 150,000 people.

(1) VBS Church Leadership Training, North Greenwood BC, Greenwood, 6:30 - 9 p.m. (SS); (2) Please pray for the planting of a deaf congregation in every department (state) of Uruguay and four new deaf congregations in the city of Montevideo.

"I started a Bible study at our house on Thursday nights," write missionaries John Mark and Cheryl Hansen of Panama. "She is now studying in Taiwan. Please pray for her to meet people who need Jesus and start another Bible study there. F will be starting a Bible study at our house on Wednesday nights. Please pray for God's will to be done."

(1) 20th - 21st - Annual Missions Celebration/Associational Leadership Training, FBC, Madison (VMI); (2) State Handbell Festival, Petal Harvey BC, Petal (CM); (3) Pray for language student missionaries in Costa Rica involved in a mentoring process helping them to prepare for a quicker and more effective transition to their field of service.

(1) State Speaker's Tournament, FBC, Clinton, 10 a.m. - noon (D&FM); (2) State Selection Tournament, FBC, Clinton, noon - 3 p.m. (D&FM); (3) The Gogo Team of Tanzania writes: "Praise God with us for the 28 churches/ groups started by our small team in the last four and a half years!"

(1) State Handbell Festival, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, 27th - 28th (CM); (2) Mississippi Baptist Chaplains' Spring Retreat, Camp Garaywa, 27th - 28th (MM); (3) Alan Holmes serves an MSC missionary at Candlestick Retreat in Minneapolis, N.C. Praise God for the first community VBS, and other activities in the 17,000 square foot facility recently dedicated to the Lord.

Pray for F from Wolof of Senegal and the Gambia. F is paralyzed on one side of her body. Her husband and son are believers, but she has been resistant to the gospel. She has been exposed to the message, but so far has been unresponsive. Pray that she would be healed and believe also.

### MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHAPLAINS' ASSOCIATION SPRING RETREAT

Patterson Place, Camp Garaywa  
April 27-28, 2007

**FRIDAY EVENING** will be "An Evening with Pruitt Calvert" as he presents Aunt Blabby, who can't wait to spread the news! Come join in the fun on Friday night and relax and laugh with "Aunt Blabby."

On **SATURDAY MORNING** Hardy Denham will lead our retreat sessions: "Looking on the Bright Side," and "Rendering Service that Continues to Last."

#### Music By Bobby Shurden

Bobby will bring our music on Friday night and Saturday morning. He is pastor of Crestview Baptist Church, Petal, and was a full-time music evangelist.

**Check-in begins at 3 p.m., with dinner at 6 p.m.**

Come early and enjoy afternoon refreshments, visit with old friends, and make new friends. We will dismiss after lunch on Saturday.

There is no charge for members of the Chaplains' Association and their spouses.

For reservations contact Carol Wright, Men's Ministry  
MBCB, 601-292-3334, or  
1-800-748-1651, E-mail: cwright@mbcb.org.

### State Singles Retreat

May 19 & 20

Central Hills Baptist Retreat  
Kosciusko

**\$25:** includes lodging, meals and activities

**\$10 commuter fee:** includes barbeque  
and concert only

### REGISTRATION

**DEADLINE: MAY 11**

Send registration fee to MBCB Conference Office,  
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, or  
call 601-292-3216 or 1-800-748-1651 ext. 216.

Visa or MasterCard is accepted.

For more program info, contact MBCB Discipleship and Family  
Ministry Department: 601-292-3284 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 284.

# HOUSE TOPS



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Licensing, Wyatte Church, Senatobia



2. Bible Drillers, Bethsaida Church, Philadelphia



3. Mississippi Campers on Mission, Central Hills, Kosciusko



4. Bible Drillers, Cairo Church, Ecu



5. Youth, Mt. Vernon Church, Eupora

1. **Wyatte Church, Senatobia**, recently licensed Alvin Whitehead and Justin Ricks to the gospel ministry. Shown are Whitehead, pastor Scott Rogers, and Ricks.

2. **Bethsaida Church, Philadelphia**, recognizes its Bible drillers. Shown are the participants, who will all be part of the state drills.

3. Mississippi Campers on Mission painted and renovated bathrooms at Cole Creek Lodge at **Central Hills, Kosciusko**, Mar. 19-29. Campers were from Ecu, Shannon, Tupelo, Starkville, Vicksburg, Collins, Poplarville, and Biloxi. Pat Pickering, project leader.

4. **Cairo Church, Ecu**, held their church Bible drills Mar. 25 followed by a fellowship meal. Front row, Marie McGuire, Ale Swords, Andria Anderson, and Lisa Swords; back row, Kelly Matthews, Cassandra Taylor, Seira Lau, Lorrie Nance, Molly Swords, John Riefers, and Jim Matthews.

5. The youth of **Mt. Vernon Church, Eupora**, treated the church to a spaghetti

supper Valentine's Day, with a movie night showing Facing the Giants. Shown, front, is "future youth" Destinee Myers, and back, Garrett Oswalt, Jamie Leach, Nikki Leach, Julie Griffin, Zachary Adkins, and Sam Breaux.

6. The four and five year old Sunday School class of **First Church, Holly Springs**, brought their flowers to decorate the Easter cross. Shown are Hope Hinkofer, Victoria Gurley, Olivia Sorrell, Lindsey Potts, Amanda Barnett, Zach Sorrell, and Matthew Callicutt.



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

[www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org)



6. Easter Cross, First Church, Holly Springs

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004  
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WKH ORUG LV LQ KLV  
KROB WHPSOH, WKH  
ORUG'V WKURQH LV LQ  
KHDYHQ; KLV HBHV  
EHKROG, KLV HBHOLGV  
WUB, WKH FKLOGUHQ RI  
PHQ.

SVDOPV HOHYHQ: IRXU

Clue: W = T

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Matthew Twenty-Five: Forty.

## CenturyMen in Concert at First Church, Jackson

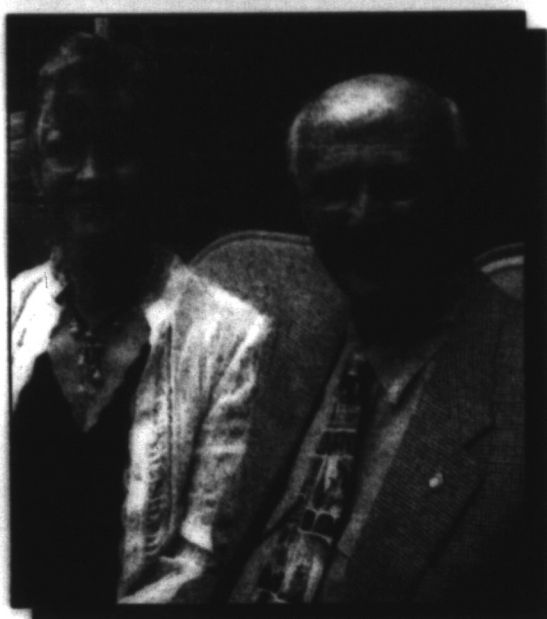
The CenturyMen will be in concert at **First Church, Jackson**, Apr. 29, 6 p.m. The group was organized in 1969 for programming by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission. Composed of 142 men in full-time career service in Baptist ministries, they represent 20 states and one foreign country. Membership is by audition. Each member is a soloist and choral director, has at least one music degree and is or has been active in a Baptist church or institution. The choir is directed by Beryl Red, composer, conductor, producer, and arranger, whose work can be experienced in such diverse venues as Carnegie Hall, Saturday Night Live, and thousands of schools, theaters, and churches around the world. Several of his choral works, including Celebrate Life and the first performing edition of Pergolesi's Magnificat, are considered landmarks in their fields.

The concert is open to the public. For more information, call (601) 949-1918.



1. Spring Fever Week will kick off at Mississippi College April 16. The annual event will conclude April 21 with "Derby Day," which consists of various competitions held between the social tribes on campus. As a highlighted component of the week, on April 17, MC will host bluegrass band Nickel Creek, accompanied by special guest Tift Merritt. The concert will be held in the A.E. Wood Coliseum. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m., with the concert beginning at 7:00 p.m. Students and visitors are encouraged to attend. For more information on Spring Fever Week or MC campus activities, please contact: (601) 925-3830 or e-mail at: thomas12@mc.edu.

2. The 30th anniversary show for the Mississippi College Shakespeare Festival, featuring The Taming of the Shrew, was recently held in the school's historic Jennings Hall courtyard. Having attended numerous plays at Stratford-on-Avon, George C. Pittman ('59), joined the MC English Department faculty from Howard Payne University. He and his wife Alicia ('60) brought with them a Texas flair for Renaissance fairs and Shakespeare festivals. They began the festival at MC and hosted the event for twenty-five years before Pittman's retirement in 2002. During this year's festival, the Pittmans donated a sculpture of William Shakespeare they commission Samuel Gore to create for their personal collection several years ago. The sculpture may be seen in the permanent collections of MC's Gore Galleries.



2. The Pittmans

3. Duo Spiritoso, consisting of guitarists Jeffrey McFadden and Andrew Zohn, will perform in concert at the Smith Auditorium May 5 at 7:30 p.m. on the Hattiesburg campus of William Carey University. Admission is \$7 for general audience and \$5 for students. For more information call (601) 318-6175. Tickets will be available at the door.

4. On April 10, Mississippi College held the Lipsey Lectureship, the oldest continuously run lectureship on campus. Hosted by the English Department, this year's lecture featured Suzanne Marrs, who recently celebrated the publication of her book, a biography of acclaimed Mississippi writer Eudora Welty. Marrs spoke on the subject of her work, presenting a speech titled: Public Anemone # 1: — Don't Take it Cereus: Eudora Welty's Love of Word Play.



4. Marrs

Visit the Baptist Record online at [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org).

## REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

**Bethany Church, Merigold: Revival, Apr. 27-29; Fri.-Sat., 7 p.m., with barbeque Sat., 5 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Curtis Askew, speaker.**

**Bethsaida Church, Philadelphia: Homecoming, Apr. 22; services followed by lunch and Glory Bound, 1:30 p.m.; Jerry McMullen, speaker.**

**Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto: Homecoming, May 6; lunch following morning service; Howard Smith, speaker; Trent Bilbo, pastor.**

**Carey Chapel, Red Banks: Revival, Apr. 22-25; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Barry Littlefield, speaker; Jack Childs and Rose Marie Basden, music.**

**Clifton Church, Scott County: Revival, Apr. 22-25; Sun., 10:45 a.m.; nightly, 7 p.m.; Doyle Boyles, speaker; Tony Henry, pastor.**

**Crowder Church, Crowder: Homecoming, Apr. 22; Worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon singing.**

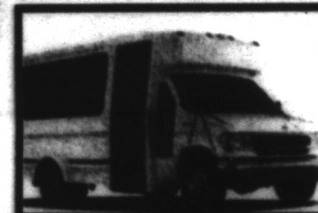
**Fernwood Church, Fernwood: 100th Anniversary, May 20; Open house service, 11 a.m., followed by a meal.**

**Oldham Church, Iuka: Homecoming, 75th anniversary, and building dedication, May 20; Sunday School 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; other activities, 2-4 p.m.**

**Philadelphia Church, Etta: Homecoming, Apr. 22, 10 a.m. - noon, followed by lunch and fellowship; Bobby Irvin, pastor.**

**Remus Church, Leake County: Homecoming, Apr. 22; services, 11 a.m. followed by covered dish meal and afternoon music. Jerry Bishop, speaker; Psalms Trio, music; Eddie Pilgrim, pastor.**

**Tuscola Church, Leake Association: Revival, Apr. 22-25; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Eric Brown, speaker; Craig Stevens, music; Smith Sanders, pastor.**



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## CLASSIFIED ADS

**THE BAPTIST CHURCHES** in Lawrence County, Alabama (Muscle Shoals Baptist Association) are currently seeking resumes for the position of Director of Missions. The deadline for submission of resumes is April 30, 2007. Please send resumes to Muscle Shoals Baptist Association, P.O. Box 485, Moulton, AL 35650-0485.

**FULL-TIME YOUTH PASTOR NEEDED** at East Side Baptist Church in Fort Smith, Arkansas. You may visit our web site at [www.eastsidebc.org](http://www.eastsidebc.org). Send resumes to 2710 Massard Road, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903 or email to [linda@eastsidebc.org](mailto:linda@eastsidebc.org). Attn: personnel committee.

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**LAWRENCEVILLE FIRST BAPTIST** Church is accepting resumes for a full-time Senior Pastor. We are located in Gwinnett County, Georgia. Please mail a resume, as well as a DVD, VCR or other media, to Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 228, Lawrenceville, GA 30046-0028.

**NEW PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH,** Anderson, SC (500 worship att.) is receiving resumes for a full-time minister to children and a full-time minister to students. Please mail to 2503 Whitehall Rd. Anderson, SC 29625 or email to [tonys2004@bellsouth.net](mailto:tonys2004@bellsouth.net).

**HOPPER GLASS STUDIO, CUSTOM** church windows, reworking and repair, Columbus/Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

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**FULL-TIME MIN. EDUCATION:** Cross Lanes Baptist Church, a growing (500 Worship, 350 SS) SBC church in West Virginia. For a complete job description and ministry questionnaire, and to submit your resume (Deadline May 31), email [pastorseth@crosslanesbaptist.org](mailto:pastorseth@crosslanesbaptist.org). CLBC, 102 Knollwood Drive, Cross Lanes, WV 25313, [www.crosslanesbaptist.org](http://www.crosslanesbaptist.org).

**RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH** of Watson, LA seeking full-time Minister of Education. Please submit resume to [rbsbc@bellsouth.net](mailto:rbsbc@bellsouth.net).

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**YOUTH MINISTER NEEDED** to start a new Youth Ministry for our Church. This will be a full-time position with full salary and benefits. Send resumes to First Baptist Church, PO Box 190, Brookshire, TX 77423 Attn: youth search committee or email resume to [david@davidnewberry.net](mailto:david@davidnewberry.net).

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**MINISTER OF MISSIONS. FULL-TIME.** Cross-cultural experience recommended. Equip members for mission service locally and globally. Dunwoody Baptist Church, 1445 Mt. Vernon Road, Atlanta, GA 30338 or [jchrismr@dbc.org](mailto:jchrismr@dbc.org).

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**FBC, RED BAY, ALABAMA IS SEEKING** a part-time minister of youth. Please send resume to First Baptist Church, attn: youth minister search comm., P.O. Box 616, Red Bay, AL 35582. Deadline for resume is April 30, 2007.

**CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY,** free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

**PHILADELPHIA BAPTIST CHURCH,** Etta, Miss., has choir robes to donate to a church who needs them. There are approximately 20-25 robes, maroon in color with collars. Contact Bro. Bobby Irvin at (662) 236-5315 or (662) 266-1265.

## MS POSITIONS

**LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH,** Flowood, Miss., is seeking a full-time Music and Adult Education Minister. Please send resume to: search committee, 5199 Lakeland Drive, Flowood, MS 39232, or fax to (601) 992-4242 or e-mail to [office@lbcflowood.org](mailto:office@lbcflowood.org) with subject: search committee.

**WILLIAMSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH** is seeking a full time pastor. Membership: 550. Sunday school 175-200+. Please send resume to: Pastor search committee, 1516 Hwy 35 south, Kosciusko, MS 39090 or email [dannyanne@juno.com](mailto:dannyanne@juno.com) or call (662) 289-2901 or (662) 289-4294.

**BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC** needed. Send resume to Foxworth First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 45, Foxworth, MS 39483.

**FURR'S BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING** a youth minister. Please send resume to Furr's Baptist Church, attn: youth minister search committee, 9011 Hwy 6 East, Pontotoc, MS 38863.

**BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH,** FORKVILLE, Miss., is seeking a bi-vocational music director. Please send resumes to Bethlehem Baptist Church, attn: Jeff Gibbs, 3897 Clifton-Hillsboro Rd., Forest, MS 39074.

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# BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

## Loving Obedience

John 13:34-35; 14:15,21-24; 15:9-16

By Angie Boydston



Boydston

Kids are so simple in their innocence. Ask any child what it means to love Jesus and the answer is probably going to be simple. Kids will tell you that loving Jesus means doing what He says. They will tell you it means obeying His rules. They might even say it has something to do with following the commandments.

I like it when the answers are so easy. In fact, in the book of John, Jesus gives us a simple answer to this question. The Bible clearly outlines what Jesus said about loving Him. Those who love Jesus do what He tells them to do, and they will produce fruit that lasts. Loving Jesus and obeying Him are integrally related.

In John 13:34-35, Jesus gives His disciples "a new commandment."

Here at the Last Supper, much emphasis was placed on how much Jesus loved these men. He had just washed their feet. Much of His remaining time with them was spent in instructing and comforting them.

This new command He gave them was really an old commandment, but was new to them because of their brotherhood, created by Christ's love for them. Offering His sacrificial love, Jesus set an example for them to love one another. He was the embodiment of God's love, so now each disciple was to embody Christ's love.

Today, this command and example are still our standard.

The principle provides our foundational testimony to the world. Christians should love one another as Jesus has loved them. Our love is a sign to the world as well as to every believer, indicating who and whose we are.

Many in the world today accuse Christians of hypocrisy because they do not see us loving each other. The world also judges our love for the Father by our love for one another. We glorify God by loving each other. How can we bear witness to non-believers if they do not see our love for one another?

Jesus continued His teaching about love, showing the disciples that loving Him meant obeying Him. Chapter 14, verse 15 tells us love cannot be separated from obedience. The statement is simple, "If you love me, you will obey what I command."

Verses 21 through 24 of the same chapter take the concept a step further. The Father and the Son cannot be separated in

their love for us. Verse 23 says that they will make their home in those who love and obey them. This teaching here is clearly from His Father. The following verse (24) says the words belong to the Father.

In Chapter 15, Jesus concluded this teaching on love and obedience by reminding the disciples that He chose them for a purpose. Verse 11 says that Jesus shared all of these teachings so the disciples would have joy. He wanted them to have a joyful existence, an abundant life. He knew their joy would be complete only when they remained in His love.

Verses 13 and 14 make it clear that these men were not just Jesus' followers, but they were also His friends. In verse 15, Jesus says He had taken them into His confidence. Their relationship was more than just follower and teacher. He had disclosed the Father's plan to them. Remember these men were about to be Jesus' voice after He was gone.

Verse 16 shows us why Jesus chose these men. The common

practice of that day was for followers of a rabbi to choose whom they wanted to follow. This was not the case with Jesus' disciples. He chose them and did so with a purpose in mind. He wanted them to bear fruit. He had a mission for them and the Father would answer their requests in order to accomplish the mission. Producing this lasting fruit would only come from remaining in His love.

We should come to Jesus as a child, understanding that loving Him is simple. The process begins with Jesus commanding us to love one another. Loving one another allows us to grow in our love for Christ. Our love for Christ must always be accompanied by obedience. Obedience means that we remain in His love. Remaining in His love brings us joy. As we experience joy completely, we produce the lasting fruit He created us to bear.

Boydston is Preschool and Children's consultant in the Sunday School Dept., MBCB, and a member of Pinelake Church, Brandon.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Stay Focused on God's Purposes

1 Peter 4:7-19

By Ivan Parke



Parke

1 Peter 4:7 begins with the Doctrine of Last Things, Eschatology. The Apostle wrote, "The end of all things is at hand" (see also 1:5, 7, 13, 20; 2:12).

The future fuels curiosity, inspires bizarre predictions. Peter, however, did not speculate. He used a "therefore," in verse 7, to connect eschatology and ethics (principles that govern conduct).

#### 1. "End times" demand an urgency and a unity.

Verses 7-11 overflow with instructions. Why? An awareness of the "end" heightens the importance of the "immediate." Life is lived in the present.

Two commands conclude verse 7. The verbs, "be of sound judgment" and "be sober" (see also 1:13; 5:8) depict clear thinking, a levelheadedness. The "end times" can shake one's composure, but desperation, as

a disposition, inhibits effectual praying.

Reciprocal pronouns, translated "one another," appear in the next three verses: [a] "keep fervent in your love [Gk. agape] for one another" (v. 8), [b] "be hospitable to one another" (v. 9), and [c] "serving one another" (v. 10). Each combination of verb or adjective and reciprocal pronoun represents a selfless action that binds believers together. Unity mattered to Peter; it had mattered to Jesus too (see Jn. 17:11, 20-23). To value unity, read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12.

In verse 8, Peter repeated an earlier charge (see 1:22) to love "deeply" (NIV). Such a love counteracts (i.e., "cover," "hide," or "bury") a host of human flaws that can undermine unity (see also Pr. 10:12; 17:9; 1 Cor. 13:4-7; Jas. 5:20). NO fellowship of believers is perfect.

In verse 9, Peter encouraged his readers to move outside their comfort zones, to interact with all believers. The Greek adjective, translated "hospitable," literally means "love of stranger." Hospitality assumes access to one's home. Unity transcends corporate worship on Sundays.

In verse 10, Peter referred to spiritual gifts (Gk. charisma), expressions of God's grace (Gk. Charis (see also Rom. 12:6-8). Unlike a skill (e.g., carpentry), talent (e.g., musical), or ability (e.g., throwing a baseball), spiritual gifts have NO marketability in the world. The Holy Spirit distributes them (1 Cor. 12:4, 7-11), equipping believers to serve God and each other.

Every member of the Church receives a gift; no one receives every gift. Consequently, you need what I possess and I need what you possess, an interdependency that promotes unity. If we are "good stewards," the Greek verb, translated "serving" or "minister" (KJV), is a present tense participle, con-

veying continuous action; indicating that service or ministry is a lifelong obligation.

Verses 8-10 answer the question, "What should believers do?" Verse 11 answers a follow-up question, "How should believers do what they do?" Peter specified, "As God leads": "speaking the very words of God ... with the strength God provides" (NIV). As a result, only God gets the glory (see also 1 Cor. 10:31). A doxology (literally "word of glory") fittingly ends verse 11.

#### 2. "Tough times" require teachableness and trust.

Verses 12-19 refer to religious persecution "for the sake of righteousness" (Mt. 5:10); see "share the sufferings of Christ" (v. 13), "for the name of Christ" (v. 14), "as a Christian" (v. 16), and "according to the will of God" (v. 19). In this wicked world, innocent suffering is inevitable (v. 12).

Believers face another inevitability: God using an undeserved "trial" (NIV) as "testing" (v. 12; see also Gen. 22:1-14; Job 1-2; Jas. 1:2-4). Peter understood the stakes. Years earlier, in the Upper Room,

Jesus had notified him, "Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail" (Lk. 22:31-32). Hours later, the disciple denied the Master three times.

Attitude, during hardship, determines outcome: to succumb or to overcome. Hence, Peter decreed, "keep on rejoicing" (v. 13), "you are blessed" (v. 14), and "glorify God" (v. 16). The verbs, "keep on rejoicing" and "glorify," are commands.

God holds His followers to a higher standard: "It is time for judgment to begin with the household of God" (v. 17; see also Am. 3:2). Therefore, Peter reminded his readers to do what was right (v. 19; see also 2:15, 20; 3:6, 17). Suffering an injustice is not a "pass" to be unjust (see Rom. 12:17-19).

Righteousness regardless is possible IF we trust God as "faithful" (v. 19; see also 1 Cor. 10:13). "At the revelation of His glory" (v. 13), suffering shall cease.

Parke is Associate Professor, Dept. of Christian Studies and Philosophy, MC, and a member of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted.



Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to crop-

ping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



**1. Balint and Garrett, First Church, Plantersville**

1. **First Church, Plantersville**, placed fresh flowers on their cross during their Easter service. Shown are pastor Danny Balint and Hunter Garrett.

2. **Lake Como Church, Bay Springs**, hosted an Easter egg hunt. Shown are the participants.



**2. Easter Egg Hunt, Lake Como Church, Bay Springs**



**3. Acteens, Thrasher Church, Booneville**



**4. RA Race Day, Friendship Church, McComb**

3. The Acteens of **Thrasher Church, Booneville**, made two Easter baskets to give to residents of two nursing homes in Booneville. Shown are Lori Johnson, Layne Lindsey, Whitney Cummings, Lauren McCoy, Chelsea Taylor, Tiffany Skelton, and Mallory Johnson.

4. **Friendship Church, McComb**, hosted the Pike Association RA race-off day Mar. 10. Shown are the RA participants from the church. Front row, Connor Jordan, Austin McCullough, Caleb Addison, and Jonah Bankston; back row, Lewis Roberts, Christ Bunting, Kyler Thomas, Eric Swartz, and Eddie Bunting.

5. **Midway Church, Jackson**, held a retirement reception for Charles Gentry Sunday, March 18. Shown are Gentry and his wife, Mary Catherine.



**5. Gentry and wife**

6. **Trinity Church, Rankin County**, celebrated 35 years of service on Mar. 25. John Holmes presented the charter members with corsages and Vera Bain received a framed certificate and gift for 35 years as church clerk. Shown are some of the charter members. Kenny Goff, pastor.

7. **Antioch Church, House**, held its children's Bible drills Mar. 28. Shown are Kim-berly Talbert, Jacob Norris, Hannah Dallas, Luke Eldridge, Abby Rigdon, Cody Embrey, Caroline Rutledge, Benjamin Pace, Harleigh Embrey, Emilio Suarez, and Kasie Truhett.

8. **Phalti Church, Covington-Jeff Davis Association**, held an RA recognition service Feb. 18. Austin McQueen, T.J. Magee and Justin Mishlan received badges and awards. Norris and Peggy Sears, leaders.

9. **Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto**, will have an appreciation and recognition service for Ivy Gill Apr. 29 for his 52 years as a deacon. Joe Waggoner, former pastor, will preach the morning message, followed by a church-wide luncheon. Trent Bilbo, pastor.



**6. Charter Members, Trinity Church, Rankin County**



**7. Bible Drillers, Antioch Church, House**



**8. RA Recognition Service, Phalti Church, Covington-Jeff Davis Assoc.**



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**Scholarship Ministry**

The apostle Paul expressed confidence in his Lord when he declared, "And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). This well-known verse highlights the focus of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation's Scholarship Ministry.

Due to the generosity of many faithful Christian stewards, the Foundation has the privilege of providing needs-based supplemental financial assistance to Mississippi students who are pursuing a degree at a Mississippi Baptist college or a Southern Baptist seminary. Most of these endowed scholarship accounts offer specific eligibility guidelines for awarding a scholarship grant. Factors such as field of study, institution attended, and scholarship amount often are included as stipulated criteria for award consideration.

For more information about the Mississippi Baptist Foundation Scholarship Ministry, please contact our office at PO Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, telephone us at (601) 292-3210 or (800) 748-1651, or visit our website, [www.msbbf.org](http://www.msbbf.org).

A completed application must be received in the MBF office by April 30.